




Seaford
Urban District Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
SEAFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.
1938.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE SEAFORD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

1938.

Mr. Chairman, Miss Buck and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1938.

All the sickness rates continue to be satisfactorily low ; in fact the returns made this year are the lowest on record for the area. A less satisfactory happening is the necessity that arose for disinfesting 7 dwellings.

The water supply is sufficient and satisfactory. Considerable progress has been made in Housing and Sampling of Milks.

I wish to express my great indebtedness to Mr. J. E. L. Smith for his assiduous co-operation.

Your Obedient Servant,

(signed) W. R. DUNSTAN.

Medical Officer of Health.

E. 1. (1) Medical Officer of Health. (Part time).
W. R. Dunstan. M.Sc. M.B. D.P.H.

Sanitary and Petroleum Inspector.
John E. L. Smith. R.S.I.

SECTION A. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)..... 4,315.
Registrar General's estimate of resident population 1938..... 9,069.
Number of inhabited houses according to Rate Book (end 1938).... 2,443.
Rateable value..... £119,670.
Sum represented by Penny Rate..... £450.

The District is mainly residential and is also a Health Resort, there being several convalescent and Private Nursing Homes. There are 24 large preparatory schools for boys and girls. Except building which has been extensive during the year, there is no staple industry. The smaller houses of the town are occupied by workers for the town's need.

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	87	47	40	Birth rate per 1000 of estimated population
Legitimate				9.59
Illegitimate	0	0	0	
Still Births	2	1	1	Rate per 1000 (live and still births).
				22.47
Deaths	100	44	56	Death rate per 1000 of estimated resident population.
				11.02

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 & 30 of the Registrar General's Short List).

	Rate per 1000 (live and still Total Births .
No. 29 Puerperal Sepsis.....	0..... 0.00
No. 30 Other Puerperal Causes..	0..... 0.00
Total.....	0..... 0.00

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1000 live births..... 11.49
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births..... 11.49
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births..... 0.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)..... 6.
Deaths from Measles (all ages)..... 0.
Deaths from Whooping Cough(all ages)..... 0.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)..... 0.

No special noteworthy causes of sickness or mortality in the area during the year, nor are there any conditions of occupation or environment having a prejudicial effect on health.

SECTION B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

- (11) (a) Laboratory facilities..... No change.
(b) Ambulance facilities..... No change.
(c) Nursing in the Home..... No change.
(d) Clinics and treatment centres..... No change.
(e) Hospitals.

The Contract with the Newhaven Authority for the reception of Infectious Cases having expired, the Council arranged with the Borough of Hove to receive cases of Infectious Diseases (other than Smallpox) at their Sanatorium.

SECTION C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. With few exceptions on the outskirts of the town the water supply of the District is maintained by the Newhaven and Seaford Water Company. The Company submits to the Council quarterly reports of analysis. Both in quantity and quality the supply has been entirely satisfactory.

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The area is drained by combined sewers to the sea outfall on the East of the town. Two sections are lifted by Schone's Ejectors and two sections by centrifugal pumps. Extensions have been made during the year due to growth of the town and Estate Development.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. No action.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. Very few houses are not on the Water Carriage System and these are on the outskirts of the District where sewers are yet to be carried.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING. No change.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

Visits Re: Smell.....	5.
Nuisances abated.....	3.
Visits Re: Pail Closets.....	12.
Number of Pail Closets removed.....	6.
Visits Re: Full and Overflowing Cesspools.....	6.
Number of Cesspools emptied.....	5.
Piggery Inspections.....	0.
Visits Re: Dustbins.....	22.
Number of defective dustbins found.....	15.
Number of dustbins supplied.....	17.
Number of Smoke Tests.....	10.
Number of defects found.....	9.
Number of defects remedied.....	9.
Number of Visits Re: Smoke Tests.....	13.

Visits Re: Dumps.....	11.
Number of defects found.....	2.
Number of defects remedied.....	2.
 Visits Re: Drainage Alterations.....	 51.
Miscellaneous Visits.....	5.
Defects found.....	3.
Defects remedied.....	3.
 Number of disinfections on request.....	 24.
(Other than I.D.)	
Number of disinfections for vermin.....	7.
 Visits Re: Water Supply.....	 3.
Number of defects found.....	1.
Number of defects remedied.....	1.
 Visits Re: Drainage Nuisances.....	 9.
Number of defects found.....	6.
Number of defects remedied.....	6.
 Visits Re: Rats and Mice.....	 2.
Number of defects found.....	1.
Number of defects remedied.....	1.
 Number of Petroleum Inspections.....	 6.
Number of defects found.....	0.
Number of defects remedied.....	0.
 Total number of defects found.....	 57.
Total number of defects remedied.....	59.
Total number of complaints received.....	37.

	<u>Served.</u>	Statutory.	13.
		Informal.	38.
<u>NOTICES.</u>			
	<u>Complied.</u>	Statutory.	13.
		Informal.	40.

Factories and Workshops.

Number of Factory Inspections.....	9.
Number of Workshop Inspections.....	30.
Number of Notices Served Etc.....	0.

Nuisances Abated and Repair Work Carried Out.

New dustbins supplied.....	17.
Drains unstopped, relaid or repaired.....	9.
Number of Houses repaired informally.....	12.
Number of rooms disinfected for vermin.....	7.
Number of drain tests made.....	10.
Number of defects remedied.....	9.

(iv) SHOPS.

Number of shops inspected.....	12.
Number of defects found.....	0.
Number of notices etc.....	0.

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Number of smoke observations..... 12.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

No swimming baths and pools are open to the Public. Several of the private schools own swimming baths for their pupils only. No action has been taken.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

No Council property has been found to be infested with bed bugs. 7 rooms have been disinfested in all for vermin. The disinfestations are carried out by the Council and in some cases the tenants themselves have assisted in this work.

(viii) SCHOOLS.

Particulars of the Sanitary conditions of the public elementary schools are given in a report of the School Medical Officer of the Administrative County. No schools were closed for infectious diseases by the Medical Officer of Health.

D. HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year.

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)..... 12.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 62.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932..... 12.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 62.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found defective :-
- (a) Number considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation..... Nil.
- (b) Number (excluding those in sub-head (a) above) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 12.

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local Authority or their Officers..... 12.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 Housing Act. 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices.
 - (a) By owners..... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority..... Nil.

B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices :-
 - (a) By owners..... Nil.
 - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil.

C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil.

D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936. - Part IV - Overcrowding.

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... 3.
- (ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... 3.
- (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein..... 31.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding during the year..... Nil.
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 3.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases... 20.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.

- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report..... Nil.

SECTION E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

The greater supply of milk is drawn from farms within the District. Premises are kept in a generally clean condition, no notices having to be served. 14 samples were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination.

PASTEURISED MILK.

Number of licences issued.....	2.
Number of supplementary licences.....	1.
Number of samples taken.....	4.
Number satisfactory.....	3.
Number unsatisfactory.....	1.

Details of the Tests.

Bacterial Count per Millilitre.

Less than 30,000 (lowest count 2,340).....	1.
Between 30,000 and 100,000.....	3.
Between 100,000 and 200,000.....	0.
Over 200,000.....	0.

Phosphatase Test.

Number submitted.....	2.
Number satisfactory.....	1.
Number unsatisfactory.....	1.

TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK.

Number of licences issued.....	4.
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B.Coli in 1/100th Millilitre.

Number submitted.....	0.
Number satisfactory.....	0.
Number unsatisfactory.....	0.

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number submitted.....	0.
Number satisfactory.....	0.
Number unsatisfactory.....	0.

ACCREDITED MILK.

Number of licences issued.....	2.
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Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number submitted.....	2.
Number unsatisfactory.....	0.
Number satisfactory.....	2.

B.Coli in 1/100th. Millilitre.

Number submitted.....	2.
Number satisfactory.....	1.
(All three tubes absent)	
Number unsatisfactory.....	1.
(All three tubes present)	

In one of these samples streptococci was present.

ORDINARY MILKS.

Number of Producers.....	5.
Number of cowsheds.....	7.
Number of dairies.....	10.
Number of retailers.....	11.

Methylene Blue Reduction Test.

Number submitted.....	8.
Number satisfactory.....	5.
Number unsatisfactory.....	3.

B.Coli in 1/100th. Millilitre.

Number submitted.....	8.
Absent in all three tubes.....	5.
Present in one of the three tubes.....	0.
Present in two of the three tubes.....	1.
Present in all of the three tubes.....	2.

In two of these samples streptococci was present.

Total number of samples submitted.....	14.
Total number satisfactory.....	10.
Total number unsatisfactory.....	4.
Number of inspections of dairies.....	16.
Number of inspections of cowsheds.....	7.
Number of Dirt Sediment Tests taken.....	3.
Number of Visits Re: Milk Samples.....	16.
Number of graded milk licences issued.....	9.
Number of letters, licences, etc.....	33.
Notices served etc.....	0.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

There are no licenced slaughterhouses in the District and only one registered slaughterhouse. Visits have been made throughout the year to all places where food is offered or exposed for sale.

Number of Bakehouses.	Underground....	1.
	Factory.....	2.
	Workshop.....	3.

Number of inspections of bakehouses.....	6.
Miscellaneous Food Visits.....	5.
Notices served etc.....	14.

The following was voluntary surrendered by the owners on condemnation :-

101 lbs. Beef:	7 lbs. Prawns:
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(c) ADULTERATION ETC.

Analysis under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is undertaken by the East Sussex County Council.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

See (c) above.

(e) NUTRITION. Nil.

(f) SHELL FISH. Nil.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919.

A number of applications for information on the destruction of rats were received during the year, and 2 visits were made in connection therewith.

National Rat Week was held from the 7th. to the 12th. November 1938. Appropriate posters were obtained and displayed about the town. There have been 49 applications for rat poison.

PETROLEUM ACT, 1928.

6 visits have been made during the year respecting the storage of Petroleum Spirit and Carbide of Calcium.

No new tanks have been constructed during the year.

25 licences were authorised, 23 for the storage of Petroleum Spirit and 2 for the storage of Carbide of Calcium.

The total quantities that might be kept under these licences were :- Petroleum Spirit, 44,200 gallons and Carbide of Calcium, 2000 pounds.

Fees amounting to £16. 5. 0 were received.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are no common lodging houses in the district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Number of infectious diseases.....	12.
Number of enquiries made.....	5.
Number of rooms disinfected after infectious disease.....	4.
Number of rooms disinfected after non-infectious disease.....	12.
Number of visits Re: disinfecting etc.....	32.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED.	CASES ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL.	TOTAL DEATHS.
Scarlet Fever.	3.	1.	-
Puerperal Fever.	2.	1.	-
Pneumonia.	4.	-	-
Diphtheria.	0.	-	-
Paratyphoid.	0.	-	-
Erysipelas.	3.	-	-
Undulant Fever.	0.	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis.	0.	-	-

Analysis of Infectious Diseases notified and
arranged in age groups.

DISEASE	Under 1 year.	1 2	2 3	3 5	5 10	10 15	15 20	20 35	35 45	45 65	65 and over.
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	1	-
Diphtheria.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-
Undulant Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anterior Poliomyelitis.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

3. (a) Cancer. No observations.
(b) Blindness. No action.
(c) Tuberculosis. Nil.

New Cases of Mortality During the Year.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1.	1	-	1	-	1	-	-	-
5.	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	-
15.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25.	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35.	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45.	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
55.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL.	4	5	2	1	1	-	-	-

